

January 2014

Volume 72, Number 1

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PLANS FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul's 71st Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 26. Each year, the people of St. Paul's gather together at an annual meeting to look back over the previous year of ministry, to take an honest assessment of the state of the congregation, and to look forward to a new year. In the past, however, attending the Annual Meeting was experienced more as a burden to be endured than an event to be celebrated. That was, until last year.

Last year, as those who attended may remember, we did away with the old and boring formula and created something quite new. We combined both the 8 and 10:30 services into one at 9:30 am, brought all of the story-telling (the reporting) into the worship service itself (using a PowerPoint presentation, movies, skits, pictures covering our 70 years of history, etc.), and saved the actual "voting" on things like the budget and new council members, etc., to the very end. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

While we won't repeat last year's annual meeting program, we will build upon it as a model for this year's gathering. Again, this year we will hold a potluck celebration the evening before the Annual Meeting, on Saturday, January 25 from 5 to 8 pm. Also, like last year, on January 26 we will combine our two services into one celebration at 9:30 am. What is more, we are honored to have on that Sunday, a representative of the New England Synod, the Rev. Paul Sinnott, Associate to the Bishop, as our guest.

Much work will need to be done between now and then. Anyone who would like to help in some of the planning and preparing is welcome to talk to me any time.

Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Sundays at 8 and 10:30 AM

ANNUAL MEETING RELATED DATES AND TIMES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

- Friday, January 10: All annual reports are due to the church office "Camera Ready," that is, ready to be printed without need for editing. It is preferred that these be submitted via email if possible to karen@stpaulswethersfield.org.
- Sunday, January 12: The financial report for 2013 and the 2014 budget will be available to the congregation. It is our hope that people will bring these home and look closely at them, ready to ask any questions you might have the next Sunday.
- Thursday, January 16: The printed Annual Report will be collated and stapled.
- Sunday, January 19: A forum to raise questions about the budget and to discuss our financial plans for 2014 will take place between the services at 9 am.
- Saturday, January 25: A Potluck Celebration will take place from 5 to 8 pm. Here we will have an opportunity to celebrate our life in Christ together and explore ideas to help make 2014 a year of growth in faith and service.
- Sunday, January 26: We will have one (1) service at 9:30 am. Voting on new council members, receiving reports, adopting the 2014 budget, and any other items that need a formal vote by the congregation, will take place immediately following the worship service. Actually, it will be the last things we do at the end of the worship service. (What can be better for the church than to make important decisions in the middle of worship?)

HOLIDAY FAIR 2013!

The Fair was held on Saturday, November 23. The fair raised \$4,400.00 with Thrivent matching \$800.00. We would like to thank Winnie for doing all the Thrivent paperwork. Debbie Viola has decided not to co-chair the fair next year. Bill Fischer, Jr. will continue as chair person for this event. Please consider helping Bill chair the event next year.

| Offerings[†] received through November 2013 | | | |
|--|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| Actual | Budget | Over/Under Budget | Annual Budget |
| 116,326 | 143,803 | -27,477 | 154,700 |
| [†] Offerings include Weekly offerings, special offerings, loose plate, and Sunday School | | | |

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

During the Annual Meeting Worship Service, what better way to celebrate than by formally welcoming "new members" into our fellowship. While St. Paul's doesn't really discriminate between "members" and "non-members"—if you worship with us you are part of our fellowship—we are bound by our constitution to define a "voting member" as one who has been officially received into our fellowship and recorded in our books. "Voting members" are not only able to "vote" at meetings, they are also able to serve on Council.

On Sunday, January 12, following the late service, I will be offering a "new members' explorer class" for anyone who would like to explore what it is that we believe as a community of faith. While there is no obligation to "join" St. Paul's after having taken the class, it does provide an opportunity to explore each person's relationship with God and how that might be supported within this community. For more information, contact me at any time.

Pr. Hugh

THANKS

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving meal at Mercy House. Your contributions of food were very welcomed!

Thanks to everyone for the Angel Tree gifts. Once again it was a huge success. Everyone is indeed an "Angel." Because of you, a number of children were able to receive a gift for Christmas.

A huge thanks also to everyone who helped supply needed items for the Hudson View Common's Christmas Gift Program. Your gifts helped the

residents experience a bit of grace this Christmas.

Thanks, too, for all who helped cook and serve the Christmas meal at Mercy House. While we received the request at the last minute, the spirit of Christmas was very present around their tables.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Cards for Fuel program. All the money raised will go to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank to help keep those facing hard economic times a little bit warmer this winter.

CHURCH



CHAPTERS

Church Chapters will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at Sue Agne's home. We will meet at 6:30 to discuss the book *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman. The book takes place in Australia where Tom and Isabela live as the keeper of the lighthouse on Janus Rock. A decision made by the couple has an impact not only on their lives but also on the life of another. It is a riveting book that will keep you reading intently from page one! Please consider joining us as we start this new year of reading! Books are available at the Wethersfield Public Library under St. Paul's Book Club. Please give Sue a call (860-563-0776) if you are able to come!

etcetera...

The children of St. Paul's decorated snowflakes and personalized them with their own message of what Christmas means. In case you didn't get to read their messages on their snowflakes displayed on the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall, here they are:

CHRISTMAS MEANS....

To have fun with family. ~ Dylan

Celebrating being with our family and the birth of Jesus Christ. ~ Haley

Staying at my house and having fun. ~ Sasha

Having fun with my family. ~ Lian

To spend time with the family and friends. ~ William

Jesus's birthday and gifts. ~Leah

Giving to people and meeting new people. ~ Arden

Being with my family and thanking Santa for gifts. ~ Libby

Spending time with my family. ~ Megan

A time to celebrate Jesus and his story. ~ Michaela

To celebrate Jesus birthday. ~ Adam

Having fun going to my Aunt's house and opening presents. ~ Elizabeth

To open presents with my family. ~ Cara

Spending time with my family. ~ Hannah

Going to my Aunt's house, opening presents and spending time with my family. ~ Marina

Spending time with my family. ~ Emily

I have fun with my family. ~ Ryan

Spending time with family, friends and people I love. ~ Autumn

Love and happiness and presents. ~ Brenda

Special thank you to Nancy Beckwith for providing the idea and all the materials for this project. The kids enjoyed it very much! Also, thank you to Pastor Hawksley for the idea of publishing their messages in the Epistle.

STAR OF LIGHT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

THANKS TO ALL who did such an incredible job making our 2013 Christmas Pageant the wonderful celebration *and* Christmas gift that it was. With the snow falling until early Sunday morning, we weren't sure whether we would be having it then, or postpone it to another Sunday. We went forward in faith, and what a good decision that was!



A special thanks to all the teachers, parents, children, and adult volunteers who tirelessly organized the costumes, prepared the lines, set up the crèche, decorated the church, helped as dressers, etc., etc.

It took the hard work of all of you to make this pageant possible! Thanks!

*And the Angels sang:
"Glory to God in the Highest,
And on Earth, Peace, Good Will to All!"
Haley, Sasha, Emily and Lian*



*Three Kings to pay homage to the Christ Child:
Elizabeth, Marina, and Zachary*

THANK YOU FOR THE "JOY"

Where did the "JOY" come from? The JOY that has appeared in front of the Church, that is?

Thanks to **Jennifer Simcik**

and her mother

Pam Baldoni for donating an extra



measure of "JOY" this Christmas! They surprised us with this the evening after the Christmas Pageant. Just in time for Christmas! En-JOY

St. Paul's MEMBERS IN SERVICE for
JANUARY 2014

ACOLYTES:

Jan 5 - Arden Adamo 10:30 AM
12 - Breen Bernard 10:30 AM
19 - Cameron Cheyney 10:30 AM
26 - Jared Christensen 9:30 AM

ALTAR GUILD:

Debbie Howe, Coordinator, 860-529-8583

Jan 5 - Deb Howe & Donna Camillo
12 - Bob Bowman & Bill Fisher, Jr.
19 - Patty Bengtson
26 - Jennie Dotts & MaryAnn Mead

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Jan 5 - Jim Newmark 8:00 AM
Mary Procyk 10:30 AM
12 - Debbie Viola 8:00 AM
Patty Bengtson 10:30 AM
19 - Art Bruce 8:00 AM
William Fischer, Jr. 10:30 AM
26 - Mary Procyk 9:30 AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 860-563-0776

Jan 5 - Sue Agne 10:30 AM
12 - Walter Ruppard 10:30 AM
19 - Curt Leonard 10:30 AM
26 - Carole Hughes 9:30 AM

TAPING:

Jan Pergande, Coordinator, 860-644-2888

Jan - Dave Bayek

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 860-529-7588

Jan 5 - Winnie Sawrun
12 - LeAnn & Andrew Power
19 - Jodi & Pam DiNatalie
26 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 860-257-4793

Jan 5 - Dick Agne
12 - Debbie Viola
19 - Kathy DiMartino & Mary Procyk
26 - Bob Bownman

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 860-529-1939

Jan 5 - Lillian Doerschler 10:30 AM
12 - Winnie Sawrun 10:30 AM
19 - Patty Bengtson 10:30 AM
26 - Joan Kratzer 9:30 AM

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator; 8:00AM, 860-563-4066

Jan - TBD

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 860-529-3079

Jan 5 - Bob Bowman & George Howe
12 - Bob Bowman & TBD
19 - Bob Bowman & TBD
26 - Bob Bowman & TBD 9:30 AM

Please note:

Our Annual Meeting will take place on January 26.
We will have one service on the 26th at 9:30 AM.

JANUARY 2014 | EVENT CALENDAR

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All written reports for our Annual Report are due January 10 Forum to discuss 2014 Budget, Sunday, January 19 at 9 AM Celebration Potluck, Saturday, January 25 at 5 PM Annual Meeting/Celebration Service, Sunday, January 26 at 9:30 AM. (Only 1 service this Sunday!) | | | | | | |
| 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Family Sunday: No Sun. Sch. | 6 Epiphany CA 7:30 PM | 7 Ch. Council 7:30 PM ? Outreach 7 PM OA 7:30 PM | 8 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM | 9 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM Worship & Music 6:30 PM AA 8 PM | 10 <i>All Articles for Ann. Report Due</i> AA 10 AM | 11 Math School 11 AM AA 7:30 PM |
| 12 Baptism of Our Lord Budget and Financials Avail. Landon Shemo Baptism Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM New Member Class 12 noon | 13 Cub Scouts 6 PM CA 7:30 PM | 14 Church Chapters Book Club 6:30 PM OA 7:30 PM | 15 <i>Deadline for Feb. Epistle Articles</i> AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM | 16 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM | 17 AA 10 AM | 18 Math School 11 AM AA 7:30 PM |
| 19 2nd Sunday After Epiphany Holy Comm. 8 AM Budget Forum 9 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM | 20 <i>MLK Jr. Day</i> CA 7:30 PM | 21 Parish Admin 6:30 PM Ch. Council 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM | 22 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM | 23 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM | 24 AA 10 AM | 25 Math School 11 AM Celebration Potluck 5:00 PM AA 7:30 PM |
| 26 3rd Sunday After Epiphany <i>Annual Meeting</i> Celebration Service 9:30 AM Formal voting following the service. No Sunday School | 27 CA 7:30 PM | 28 OA 7:30 PM | 29 AA 10 AM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM | 30 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thursday Group 10 AM AA 8 PM | 31 AA 10 AM | |

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